

# SUMMARY REPORT



2000-2002





## *A message from Congressman Jim McCrery*

*T*he National Center for Preservation Technology and Training's Heritage Education – Louisiana program is an important tool for all Louisianians as we seek to pass to our children and grandchildren the knowledge of what makes our state great. Teachers can use the program resources to craft innovative lessons that teach the importance of historic preservation. Students garner a new appreciation and pride for local history through hands-on activities. I am pleased that more than \$750,000 has been devoted to this worthwhile effort.

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*Heritage Education–Louisiana is a program of the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training.*



*NCPTT: Technology Serving the Future of American's Heritage.*

[www.ncptt.nps.gov](http://www.ncptt.nps.gov)



*Fort St. Jean Baptiste*



We are pleased to present this report celebrating two rewarding and successful years of Heritage Education – Louisiana, the pilot program of the National Park Service's Heritage Education Initiative.

Teachers developed this program, guided by their strong desire to ignite a grassroots effort among educators across the state to help children discover pride in their local heritage. The program's goal is that the experience of discovering heritage will add color and context to subjects spanning schools of every size, location, ethnic makeup and their associated curricula. Ultimately, we hope to make the educational experience come alive for every student.

Such flexibility allows this program to achieve yet another of its goals: serving as a model for schools across the nation. Classroom teachers, preservation specialists, and education specialists are connected to ensure that the program meets preservation ethics and provides professional development for teachers in evolving educational theory and techniques.

The program meets the needs of classroom teachers who must cover not only curriculum standards and benchmarks, but must also consider high-stakes testing such as the state's stringent LEAP (Louisiana Educational Assessment Program) test. Heritage Education – Louisiana aids teachers in creating integrated lessons and activities that use local cultural resources as the foundation.

Because Heritage Education – Louisiana encourages development of creative and individualized lessons using local community resources, the program fits any teacher, any subject, and any school. Both urban and rural schools, high and low socio-economic levels, and diverse cultural populations are represented. Even students and teachers at non-traditional schools are meeting curriculum needs and engaging students in history and heritage through this program.

In two short years, our partners have helped transform our dream of an effective and portable heritage education program into an impressive reality. We hope this report will cause you to join us as well in ensuring the future of our past.



**Kirk Cordell**  
*Executive Director*  
NCPTT



**Sheila Richmond**  
*Program Manager*  
Heritage Education – Louisiana



*I*

n 1966, with the establishment of the National Historic Preservation Act, America made a lasting commitment

## History

to the structures and landscapes that define our culture. With this commitment came the need to educate our youth to maintain the cultural context of these sites in the minds and hearts of future generations.

Thirty years later, the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT), along with the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University, produced *Focus on 2000: A Heritage Education Perspective*. The resulting interest gave NCPTT the opportunity to develop the pilot, Heritage Education – Louisiana. Northwestern State University of Louisiana (NSU), with its history as Louisiana's first normal school, was a key partner.

In 2000, collaboration between NCPTT and NSU led to meetings with Louisiana Department of Education supervisors for pre-kindergarten through high school curriculum standards, the Louisiana Center for Educational Technology, National Park Service, and the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism (which houses the State Historic Preservation Office). Continued research determined the key components necessary to develop a program that is teacher friendly and classroom adaptable.

Additionally, Heritage Education – Louisiana selected sixteen fourth- and eighth-grade teachers from around the state to aid in the development of the program. During the



*Hammond, Louisiana*

*“Teachers were engaged and involved as the Heritage Education workshops were presented. Much deliberating and work went into the planning and delivery of the workshops to ensure that Louisiana Content Standards and Benchmarks in the areas of English/Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies were integrated with the concepts of cultural landscape, structures and archeology with meaningful content. Northwestern State University’s College of Education faculty worked with dozens of public school teachers over a three year period to advance the concepts delivered during the workshops in fun and interesting ways. Surely the students of the teachers trained will benefit from the work done through Heritage Ed.”*

*Dr. Cathy Seymour  
College of Education  
Northwestern State  
University of Louisiana*



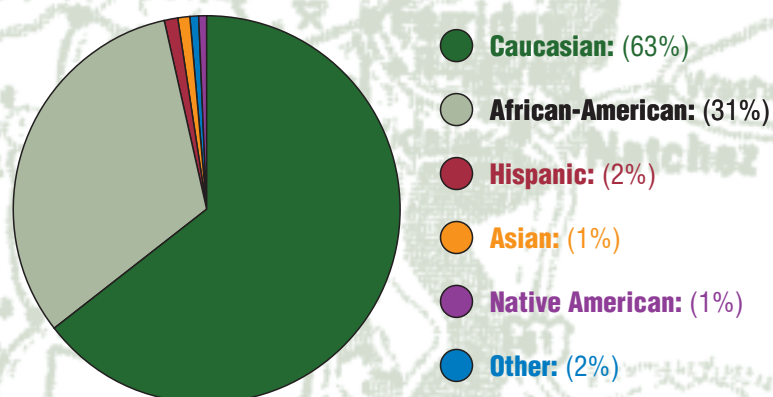


course of a year, the teachers met in four, one-day workshops and a five-day summer institute to create lesson plans and activities, which they piloted in their own classrooms. With the knowledge gained from this experiment, Heritage Education – Louisiana, with assistance from NSU staff, refined the program and now strives to enrich teachers' resources through an electronic newsletter, workshops, grants, presentations and a web site serving as a tool for teachers, students and parents.

## Demographics

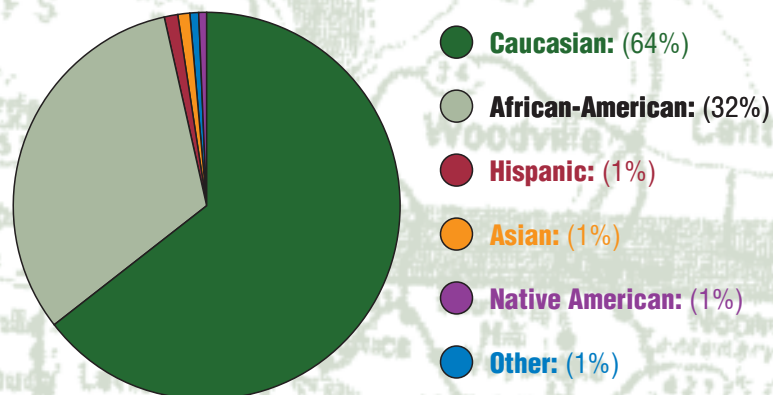
Reflecting Louisiana's Heritage

**Louisiana Demographics: breakdown of population by 2000 census**



Source: [www.census.gov/main/www/cen2000.html](http://www.census.gov/main/www/cen2000.html)

**Demographic breakdown of student ethnicity and participation in Heritage Education - Louisiana**



Percentages have been rounded.

## Online Resources

Our website includes pertinent articles, a searchable database for lesson plans, and links to Heritage Education resources across the country. This will serve as a valuable tool for teachers, parents and students alike.



[www.heritage-ed.com](http://www.heritage-ed.com)

Teachers are excited about the opportunity to share lesson plans and ideas through the Heritage Education web site. The lesson plan templates are developed by teachers, and chosen for their classroom adaptability and educational value.

The site provides valuable information concerning the grant program, easily accessible to teachers and administrators. This encourages participation by more members of the educational community. A bulletin board gives educators and parents an opportunity to exchange ideas and encouragement.

# Teacher Feature



## **Debbie Buco**

Studying Louisiana's historic sites with elementary students is an excellent way to address the Louisiana Content Standards and Benchmarks through interdisciplinary units, according to Debbie Buco, a teacher of talented and gifted students at Galvez Primary School in Ascension Parish. Having been involved in Heritage Education – Louisiana for several years, Debbie has been responsible for some of the program's most creative classroom products.

One of her students' favorite projects is building a life-sized palmetto hut from willow branches and palmetto leaves. Archeologists believe that the Native American people of Poverty Point and other sites may have lived in this type of structure.

"Students are introduced to geometry basics such as radius, diameter, area and circumference of a circle as they create a 7-foot-diameter hut using a string and pencil compass," she said. "Louisiana Indians used the natural resources at hand to build their dwellings. It is important that stu-



dents recognize the uniqueness of our Louisiana culture and not be drawn into the Indian stereotype of paper tepees at Thanksgiving. Native peoples in our state never lived in tepees like the Plains Indians. Learners quickly grasp social studies concepts and are able to use the hut for writing lessons and as a reading center."





# Workshops



One component of the Heritage Education – Louisiana program is summer workshops for classroom teachers. The workshops provide intense activities, including field trips, that drive home the concept of place-based learning. Using historical structures, archeological sites and cultural landscapes as content, staff from Northwestern State University's College of Education instruct teachers in how to use local cultural resources to create unique lessons and activities that meet curriculum needs for Math, English/Language Arts, Science and Social Studies.

The workshops are two-day sessions with activities that aid teachers in enriching their lesson plans through creative teaching methods. Participants have taken the lessons learned from the workshops into the classrooms, utilizing technology and multi-media techniques to inspire students to embrace their heritage. The workshops give teachers valuable ideas and insight in not only our local culture and heritage, but also new ways to introduce these to their students.

Recently developed lesson topics include:

- Town Square, Bayou Teche
- Learning to "Read" Louisiana Buildings
- The First Americans
- Breathing Life into Cities of the Dead
- Jackson Square
- Our Community

*"Northwestern State University is pleased that the Heritage Education program was designed and developed with our College of Education, which has long been a leader in teacher training in Louisiana. The pilot program in Louisiana has demonstrated the importance of teaching about our heritage resources in schools, and now the potential is evident for the model developed at NCPTT for implementation throughout the United States. We are proud at NSU to have been a partner on this project from inception to design to implementation and now expansion to other states."*

*Dr. Randall J. Webb  
President  
Northwestern State  
University*





*Oakland Plantation*

## *Workshop Scenario*

Oakland Plantation at Cane River Creole National Historical Park was the focus of a series of four workshops held during the summer of 2002. Using the plantation as an example, teachers learned how to use local agricultural sites as the foundation for developing curriculum-based lessons that also addressed standardized testing concerns.

While learning about the history of Oakland, teachers also participated in hands-on activities and discovery learning. Techniques included measuring rooms and determining the scale of floor plans, role playing characters who lived at or visited the site, researching cash and subsistence crops, examining artifacts found at the site, and much more.



*Oakland Plantation-Teacher Workshop Tour*

## *Teacher Comments*

"It was great to attend a workshop where teachers were on the cutting edge of integration of all subject matter into a powerful unit on historical preservation."

- Kathie Istre  
Dolby Elementary School  
Calcasieu Parish

"The workshop was one of the best I have ever taken. It gave me new insight into teaching about the importance of stewardship toward our communities' rich and important cultural landscapes."

- Marilyn Baker  
Saline High School  
Bienville Parish

"My students have loved learning about their heritage in Louisiana. Thank you for the unique information and learning opportunities that I could use in my classroom. My students have been able to inquire about the unique history of our community and our state."

- Deedra Bignar  
Nebo Elementary  
LaSalle Parish

"Students are excited and more interested in the lessons, because the activities are more 'real life.' They really relate to how the lesson is delivered. Lessons and activities provided through the workshops provide students an opportunity to really experience the concept rather than attempting to understand a concept that is abstract to them."

-Melissa M. Stille, Principal  
Loranger Middle School  
Tangipahoa Parish



# Teacher Feature



## **Sharon Dooley**

Sharon Dooley's school underwent the rigorous Southern Association of Colleges and Schools evaluation, recommending that she focus on such broad areas as "Learning to Learn Skills", "Integrated Knowledge" and "Communication Skills."

"I felt that all three areas could be covered by designing a program that included Louisiana History concepts and standards, but that allowed deviation from the text," Dooley said. "I had the pleasure of attending several Heritage Education workshops and learned so many hands-on ideas to enliven my curriculum."



To bring history to life, her students compiled a CD and a lengthy book outlining a local landmark, Longue Vue House and Gardens. The three components of the SACS evaluation were covered in depth. They "learned to learn" through being in control of the grant. The knowledge was integrated in that architecture, history, geography, computer and art skills were combined. The personal interviews and acting



in the living history drew upon communication skills. One parent said that the program helped her daughter to grow in self-assuredness.



## Mini Grants

The Mini Grants component was developed as an additional method by which to reach teachers and students with the stewardship message. The grants are awarded for the development of innovative heritage education lessons and activities. A maximum of \$2,500 per grant can be requested and is available to any pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade classroom teacher in Louisiana. The lesson must be focused on a specific site in Louisiana, such as a historic structure, archeological site or cultural landscape.

With over \$100,000 of grant money distributed and used directly in the classrooms, Heritage Education – Louisiana has made an impact in its first two years. The funding has enabled teachers to seek non-traditional tools for their lesson plans. This break from the norm encourages not only a greater participation from the students, but better retention and understanding of the lessons presented.

*“Heritage Education – Louisiana worked closely with the Louisiana Department of Education to ensure alignment with Louisiana’s Content Standards and Benchmarks. This program helps students meet these expectations with well-planned experiences in their communities. The hands-on learning and the local focus are excellent examples of research-based practices in instruction.”*

*Anne Campbell  
Louisiana Department of Education  
Division of Student Standards and Assessments*





***Cane River Lake***

From the historic landscapes that have made Louisiana famous, back to the classroom, the grants from Heritage Education – Louisiana have impacted the students of the state. Participating students study the past, using the latest in technology and multi-media methods to reinforce the lessons learned.

Teachers use very non-traditional methods for presentation of these lessons. Everything from computers and photography to art and playwriting, the workshops have provided the inspiration, but the grants remain the key. Without the ability to fund these worthy projects, teachers would be unable to break from traditional curriculum and present these dynamic insights into history, preservation and the future.



## *Student Comments*

"I have learned how much Louisiana and our community have contributed to our country. I have enjoyed using the computers to demonstrate the facts I've learned about my Louisiana heritage."

*- 8th Grade Student*

"I learned that you should appreciate old things because one day you may think that it's not important when you could have learned about it, and now it is gone."

*- 5th Grade Student*

"This is a great program. Everyone needs to know about the past. It helps us take care of the future. You need to know about the past so you won't make the same mistakes in the future."

*- 4th Grade Student*

"Learning about our Hammond heritage has been a wonder to me and many others. I, as well as my fellow classmates, had no concept of the past in Hammond. Working with advanced technology made learning about Hammond not only fun, but also very informative. I feel we all profited greatly from this learning experience."

*- 8th Grade Student*

# Teacher Feature



**Joan Hendrix**

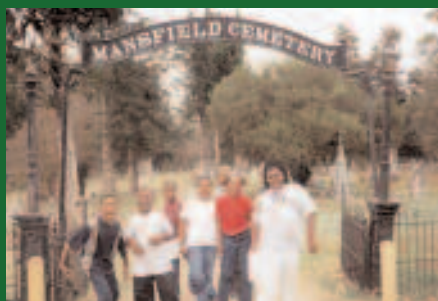
Joan Hendrix, a teacher at Mansfield Elementary in DeSoto Parish, believes hands-on learning is important. This led Hendrix to take students to places in their community to learn about the area's history and art.

"Our students like to learn about things," Hendrix said. "They were taught about the places they visited before they left the school by their classroom teachers who were well versed in the history of the places we visited. We also had community volunteers who went on the trips, adding knowledge by giving a hands-on history of the area or place."



There were different things to learn at each location, and students got the most out of each experience. After returning to school, the students continued to apply the lessons learned through playwriting, art and creative writing.

Hendrix's vision for teaching heritage extended beyond her classroom.



Leveraging the funds she received from Heritage Education–Louisiana, she enabled every classroom at her school to experience the field trips she planned.



# Mini Grants at Work

2001 Grant .....	School .....	Location .....
Learning History by Living History .....	B.A. St. Ville Elementary .....	Harvey
Piney Hills Country: Places & Faces .....	Cedar Creek School .....	Ruston
Life on the Avenue .....	Caddo Magnet High School .....	Shreveport
Beautiful Bienville .....	Castor High School .....	Castor
Downtown Shreveport Lagniappe .....	Elementary Expulsion Center .....	Shreveport
Southwest Louisiana-A "Gumbo" of Cultural Diversity .....	Esterwood Elementary .....	Esterwood
Visions of Teaching & Learning .....	Lowery Middle School .....	Donaldsonville
Louisiana Links Newsletter .....	Forked Island E. Broussard Elementary .....	Abbeville
Heritage Exploration of Louisiana Places .....	Mansfield Elementary .....	Mansfield
Learning About Louisiana .....	Gonzales Middle School .....	Gonzales
Uncovering the Mysteries of Barataria .....	Marrero Christian Academy .....	Marrero
Learning & Loving Louisiana Through Literacy Centers .....	Gonzales Primary School .....	Gonzales
Help Save Our Heritage with a Festival .....	Minden High School .....	Minden
Exposing Our Roots .....	Morgan City High School .....	Morgan City
Fort Derussy .....	St. Joseph Middle School .....	Plaquemine
Keeping an Eye on the Caddo .....	Northwood High School .....	Shreveport
New Orleans: Our Culture & Heritage Through Children's Eyes .....	St. Paul's Episcopal School .....	New Orleans
Providing Roots for Transplants .....	Oak Grove Primary .....	Prairieville
Cultural Significance & Architecture of Sacred Places .....	St. Rita Catholic School .....	New Orleans
Louisiana Explorers .....	Oak Park Middle School .....	Lake Charles
A Walk Down Memory Lane .....	Saline High School .....	Saline
Louisiana: Feast Your Eyes .....	Staring Education Center .....	Baton Rouge
Discovery Zone 2002 .....	Westdale Middle School .....	Baton Rouge

2002 Grant .....	School .....	Location .....
Old Luling on the River .....	Lakewood Elementary School .....	Luling
Bring the Past to Life .....	A.E. Phillips Laboratory School .....	Ruston
Vanishing History .....	Dolby Elementary School .....	Lake Charles
Public History Practicum .....	LA School for Math, Science & Arts .....	Natchitoches
Special F/X for Extraordinary LA Places .....	Galvez Primary School .....	Prairieville
Lake Charles Cemetery .....	Calcasieu P.M. High School .....	Lake Charles
Cultural & Historical Impact of the Shackelford & Davenport Plantation .....	Bonita Elementary School .....	Bonita
Attakapas Indian Heritage of Pecan Island & the Last Indian Mound .....	Pecan Island High School .....	Kaplan
Celebrating New Orleans' Heritage .....	Our Lady of Prompt Succor School .....	Westwego
Mapping & Minding Memories: Representative New Orleans Gravesites .....	Brother Martin High School .....	New Orleans
Longue Vue House & Garden—Past, Present & Future .....	St. Catherine of Siena School .....	Metairie
Culture & Influence of Louisiana's Early Indian Tribes .....	Watson Elementary School .....	Lake Charles
Get Connected with the Causeway .....	Pontchartrain Elementary School .....	Mandeville
Bearing Our Heritage into the Future .....	Block High School .....	Jonesville
Louisiana Plantation Architecture: An Introduction .....	Riverdale High School .....	Jefferson
A View into the Past - Port Hudson .....	Slaughter Elementary School .....	Slaughter
Connecting Louisiana Maneuvers .....	Alexandria Middle Magnet School .....	Alexandria
Exploring Housing through a Historical Perspective .....	Newellton High School .....	Newellton
We Were Here First .....	Castor High School .....	Castor
Exploring Historical Sites in Avoyelles Parish .....	Mansura High School .....	Mansura
Roots: West Feliciana Speaks to us about its Past .....	West Feliciana Middle School .....	St. Francisville
Discovering America in Louisiana .....	Westdale Middle School .....	Baton Rouge

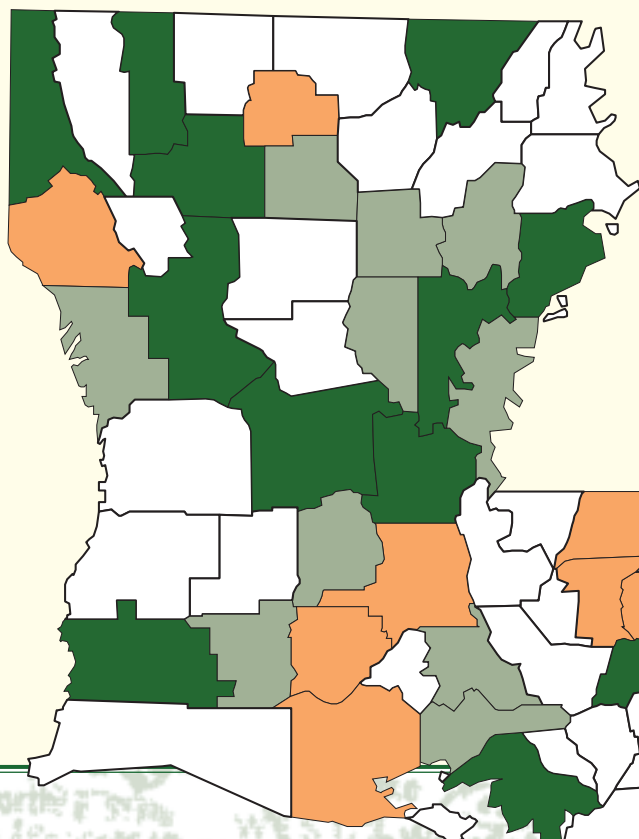




**Heritage Education** is the use of local cultural and historic resources for teaching the required curricula of pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade.\* Interdisciplinary activities and lesson plans focus on historic structures, archeological sites, and cultural landscapes, and combine components such as documents, photographs, living traditions, history, artifacts, maps, and oral history to help students learn to appreciate and value cultural resources as treasures of their shared heritage.

*\*Hankins, Caneta S. "Focus on 2000: A Heritage Education Perspective." Murfreesboro: Middle Tennessee State University, 1997.*

## *Making an Impact Around the State*



- Parishes with Grants & Workshops
- Parishes with Workshops
- Parishes with Grants



# Heritage Partners

National Park Service

Northwestern State University of Louisiana

Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Louisiana Department of Education

Louisiana Preservation Alliance



645 College Avenue, Natchitoches, Louisiana 71457

Sheila Richmond, Program Manager

Kim Bowen, Assistant Program Manager

Ph: 318-356-7444 • Fax: 318-356-9119

[www.heritage-ed.com](http://www.heritage-ed.com)

A program of:



National Center for Preservation Technology and Training

645 College Avenue, Natchitoches, Louisiana 71457

Ph: 318-356-7444 • Fax: 318-356-9119

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